

they think proper, to change their agents individually, or the organization of them in form or function whenever they please; that all the acts done by those agents under the authority of the nation, are the acts of the nation, are obligatory upon them and enure to their use and can in no wise be annulled or affected by any change in the form of the government or of the persons administering it. Consequently, the treaties between the United States and France were not treaties between the United States and Louis Capet, but between the two nations of America and France, and the nations remaining in existence, though both of them have since changed their form of government, the treaties are not annulled by those changes. (From an opinion on French Treaties, 1793. F. VI., 220.)

SOVEREIGNTY.—The whole body of the nation is the sovereign legislature, judiciary and executive for itself. The inconvenience of meeting to exercise these powers in person, and their inaptitude to exercise them, induce them to appoint special organs to declare their legislative will, to judge and execute it. It is the will of the nation which makes the law obligatory; it is their will which creates or annihilates the organ which is to declare or announce it. They may do it by a single person, as an Emperor of Russia (constituting his declarations evidence of their will) or by a few persons, as the Aristocracy of Venice, or by a complication of councils, as in our former regal government, or our past Republican one. The law being law, because it is the will of the nation, is not changed by their changing the organ through which they choose to announce their future will; no more than the acts I have done by one attorney lose their obligations by my changing or discontinuing that attorney. (To Edmund Randolph. F. VII., 385.)

SOVEREIGNTY.—With respect to our State and Federal governments, I do not think our relations correctly understood by